



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10 SW 2nd Avenue Room 207 • Gainesville, Florida 32601

Tel: (352) 264-6868 • Fax (352) 264-6852

***Irena Melvin, Chair
Rita Puentes, Vice Chair
Timothy Strauser
Richard Berry, Alternate***

***Gina van Blokland
Suzanne Wynn***

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2019, 1:30 P.M.

10 SW 2nd Avenue Room 207

Gainesville, FL 32601

In attendance: Irena Melvin, Timothy Strauser, Richard Berry, Gina van Blokland, Jaye Athy, Ivy Bell, Ron Gromoll, Charlie Houder, Vernest LeGree. Members of the public attending: Everett Melvin, Mike Melvin

1. Call to Order *1:37 pm by Chair*
2. Approval of Agenda *Motion to approve with change of Item 5 moved ahead of Item 3 GvB, 2nd TS, approved unanimously*
3. Approval of the Minutes from May 7, 2019 *Motion to approve TS, 2nd GvB, approved unanimously*
4. Old Business
 - a. Veteran's Park Update
CH-moving toward presentation stage of plans. Rotary donated \$100k toward a splash pad; the current plan is expanded to address parking improvements, FCC movement mgmt., and storm water. Splash pad area will be plaza-like, with wet and dry play areas. IM suggested installing a timer in the splash pad.
 - b. Poe Springs Update
FEMA dollars received for repairs from Irma. Boardwalk will be replaced and ADA compliant. SRWMD grant will provide septic upgrade (work starting week of 6/24). Park now open 7 days/wk dawn to dusk with a \$5 parking charge. There is an attendant at the gatehouse to facilitate traffic on weekends.
 - i. Watersports/Concession Vendor
Anderson Outdoor has been awarded the bid, license is currently in AC legal. Hope to start by 4th of July. 1 year bid with contingencies for up to 3 year expansion adding concessions.

c. Camp McConnell Update

Currently negotiating with Friendship Circle, last meeting was teleconference 5/29. Currently at approx. \$1M with conservation easement, which is comparable to appraisal. Next scheduled negotiation is Monday 6/24, then presentation to BoCC.

d. Canterbury Update

Easement issues resolved, Newberry closing 7/11 on IFAS property and Canterbury on schedule to close in August. Canterbury currently has 5 events reserved for the fall, with more events booked in 2020. Facility will need a maintenance person. Renovations should begin around May 2020. AC will continue booking equestrian events. RG will move office to Canterbury, then IFAS.

5. New Business

a. Squirrel Ridge Park Presentation – Manley Designs, LLC
Elizabeth Manley presented concept designs for this park that will be shown at the public meeting 7/16 at Idylwild Elementary. Upgrades will enhance connections, strengthen the park as a destination, provide better entrances, ensure a secure, safe environment, and expand the memorial area. Members questioned whether there will be increased parking- the double load lot should increase parking and also formalize where citizens should park. Parks staff is working with Meridian, as they are a large user group. RB suggested adding another entrance from Williston Rd. Play area-RB voiced concern over the BB court being too close to the playground and suggested adding a volleyball court. Public comment: will there be conflict over pickle ball vs BB use on the single court? RB suggested shifting the play equipment and adding another multi use court. Dog Park will split the large dog area into wet/dry and offer larger seating areas. TS asked about drainage for the dog wash area, will it erode the ground under the platform?



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6. Other Business

a. 2019/2020 Work plan and Accomplishments

Draft attached for discussion.

b. Ivy Bell stated that the Comprehensive Plan amendments are going to BoCC Tuesday 6/25/19 at 5pm for public hearing.

7. Next Meeting date – No July 2019 meeting-next meeting August 6, 2019

8. Public Comment

Citizens attending the meeting shared input on Lake Alto:

- Consider more pavilions and picnic areas
- Consider installing buoys in the swimming area
- Remove vegetation from the canal area
- Consider removing the rope swing
- Praise for the hiking trails

CH stated that upgrades are on track for play area, new restrooms, pavilions, shoreline preservation overlooks. A new fishing pier is planned and erosion in the swimming area will be addressed.

9. Adjourn 3:12 pm